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WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

(Digested From Reports of State Extension Directors) U. S. Department of Agriculture

Summary No. 22

August 8, 1942

MAINE (August 1).---State-wide food-preservation program being conducted by regular and emergency home demonstration agents. Canning demonstrations will be given in every community. Community canning centers set up in 45 communities with cooperation State department education and OCD. High-school economics teachers will direct these centers under supervision foods specialist. Four-day training school in food-preservation methods held at university for canning center directors and regular and emergency home demonstration agents.

5,218 women attended nutrition and emergency feeding training meetings; 857 received certificates as canteen aides and 2,064 certificates as nutrition aides.

Work carried forward in regular dairy projects of pasture improvement, cooperative breeding associations, and dairy herd improvement associations. Radio talks, news articles, tours, calls, and other agencies used to get more general action in improved pasture practices.

County agents making survey of wood dealers to determine fuel-wood situation.

Forest fire problems discussed at summer conference extension agents. Agents and extension forester continuing every possible aid to assist Maine Forest Service with their forest fire prevention and control program.

Farm Forest Products Cooperation of York County given assistance by county agent, marketing specialist, and extension forester in getting milling program under way. Object of the cooperative is to get a market for farm woodlot owners to sell small quantities timber and receive the market value; should prove helpful to the farmer and supply needed timber for war purposes.

Report shows 12,300 4-H projects under way in food production, canning, etc; 75 percent under supervision of local 4-H leader, 25 percent in more isolated areas under neighborhood leaders. In one county 97.5 percent of the Victory guides sent in reports when first check called for.

MINNESOTA (July 27).---Planning committees representing agents, specialists, and administration will map procedure this fall and winter in important war programs. Shortage rubber and labor call for drastic overhauling old methods, substitution of procedures that will reduce number of meetings, decentralize training. Committees to consider especially methods in Food-for-Freedom,

fire prevention, transportation, and youth programs. Canceling of fairs and special events will call for new incentives and pointing of 4-H Club work more and more at wartime service.

Martin County selected for intensive transportation survey conducted by Extension and division agricultural economics. Neighborhood leaders will assist in intensive check all transportation, urban and rural, truck and rail, private hauling, to determine extent of duplication and show way to saving in future. Findings to guide transportation work all over State.

Extension taking initiative in new intensified plan to eliminate parasites in sheep flocks. Purpose to cut down now extensive damage from parasites which reduces value of sheep products for wartime uses.

Care of clothing, wise buying under changing conditions, set up as major home program many counties. Family food work continues, with emphasis on storage, drying, etc.

"Best Buys" radio and newspaper reports to consumers, carried on for Twin City vegetable and fruit markets, extended to Duluth area with all stations and newspapers cooperating. All agents having radio outlets provided with background material for local vegetable reports intended to reduce waste of local surpluses.

MISSISSIPPI (August 1).--Reports show 98.2 percent of all farms have Victory Gardens, exceeding State goal by 3.2 percent; 340,493 such gardens, of which 285,811 were on farms and 54,682 in cities and towns.

Other food production increased to meet wartime needs as follows: Beef cattle, 12 percent; dairy products, 19 percent; hogs, 28 percent; poultry, 20 percent. Peanuts for oil, 80,637 acres; soybeans for oil, 293,004 acres.

As result of special emphasis placed by Extension Service on saving farm seeds 2,938,744 bushels of crop and legume seed had been saved by Mississippi farmers up to June 30.

County mapping and community and neighborhood delineation completed in 61 counties and practically completed in remaining counties. Community and neighborhood leaders selected 31 counties, and partially selected 25 counties. All counties expect to complete program by early August.

As an example of splendid response of Negro farmers in Victory program, following is quoted from a report from Mt. Olive community, Holmes County: "In the Victory Garden campaign launched last spring, 96 percent of Negro farmers in this community have outstanding Victory Gardens. In this same community a goal of \$20,000 in war bonds and stamps was set. On June 30 more than \$15,000 in pledges had been turned in and the drive is still in progress. We expect to exceed our goal. All the money received from sale of scrap metal is being invested in bonds and stamps."

From Lincoln County comes the following: "On February 28, 1942, the Negro farmers of Lincoln County organized a cooperative vegetable marketing association, and to date this association has marketed cooperatively 1,515 bushels of vegetables, which netted the members participating a total of \$1,704.72."

Scrap material reported collected through efforts county agents 78 counties was - Scrap iron, 50,460 tons; rubber, 77,632 tons; paper, 2,020 tons; copper, 173 tons; aluminum, 426 tons - a total of 130,599 tons.

TEXAS (August 1).---Looking to post-war needs, encouragement being given to establishment soil and water conservation districts with view to building of programs and plans of work which will result in creation of opportunities for men and machines to work after the war. Information on subject given groups of farmers in 7 counties. General educational meetings held San Angelo and Fort Stockton.

Furnishing plans for dairy barns which will pass inspection for production grade A milk. Model plan for cooperative marketing farm products from areas having surplus in those having a deficiency has been worked out. Emphasizing home cleaning and care of clothing as economy in time and money, and prolonging life of wearing apparel.

The 800 well-organized cotton-improvement associations are being used effectively in streamlining cotton program of State to meet war needs. Further planning under way to emphasize urgent need of proper harvesting and ginning.

On account shortage planting seed of oats and barley, survey made to locate available supplies of seed of recommended varieties. Farmers urged to harvest sufficient winter legume seed for their own use and, if possible, some for sale.

4-H Club boys in 129 counties have contributed following to war program: Scrap iron collected, 3,478,554 pounds; paper, 190,804 pounds; aluminum, 57,826 pounds; bonds and stamps bought, \$39,456.04; beef calves on feed, 4,178; swine on feed, 10,552; sheep on feed, 4,477; hens, 73,230; baby chicks, 689,589; increase poultry flocks, 2,332; Victory Gardens, 6,039. 4-H Club boys are carrying forward their rifle training work and are taking part in first-aid schools and other civilian defense activities. Labor patrols have been organized some counties and are helping with farm work in their home communities and counties.

VIRGINIA (August 1).---Food-for-Victory goal reports show State has more than doubled spring pig goal, will easily surpass 1942 slaughter goal, and intentions to breed for fall pigs indicate 28 percent increase. 1,064,000 more laying hens on farms than in 1941, with 15.4 percent increase in egg production. Milk production shows an average increase of 5 percent, and receipts at two largest condenseries increased 30 percent.

Neighborhood leaders urging pork producers to finish as many spring pigs as possible for late summer and early fall market. Better but more economical feeding and management methods being adopted, especially use of self-feeders. Poultry producers being aided toward higher egg production. Special assistance given homemakers and FSA clients. Demonstration flocks in 38 counties checked for general improvement; 15 culling demonstration held.

General publicity program bringing to attention farmers' need for producing and conserving nitrogen. Program to be intensified through neighborhood leaders. Planting of winter legumes to be stressed. Agronomists working with fertilizer manufacturers on grades for conservation of nitrogen, and plans for rationing if this becomes necessary.

Barn-type hay driers receiving special attention engineers and farmers as essential in Food-for Victory effort; 14 recent installations will handle 2,000 tons, mostly alfalfa, this year. Three more driers to go in this season.

Economists have set up number cost accounts on soybean enterprises, results to be summarized and applied to 1944 wartime goals. Revising index number of prices of farm commodities sold in State and constructing an index number of prices farmers pay.

More than 22,000 home demonstration club women are turning attention to garden produce and its preservation by other methods than canning. Drying promises to become popular wartime measure. State-wide campaign under way for enriched or whole-grain cereals.

Extension forester active in assisting Navy Yard at Norfolk and other war production units in obtaining much-needed special timber. Sample survey available materials in State made and sent to WPB. Radio and news reminders sent out relative firewood supply. Working on fire protection plans in cooperation Forest Service and OCD.

Home demonstration agents helping to organize and carry through fat-saving program in rural areas. Home demonstration clubs giving valuable assistance.

Special 4-H Club camps held over State were designed to instruct and inspire members in contributing to war effort. Emphasis on food production and preservation, care of farm and home equipment, wise spending, farm and home hazards, first aid, etc.